



### *Conference of the Birds*

1. How does the hoopoe become leader of the birds? Do you think he is a competent leader?
2. What is the significance of the excuses the birds come up with for avoiding the perilous journey to find the Simorgh?
3. With which of the hoopoe's stories do you most identify and with which the least? Why?
4. The two Sufi themes that run through this poem are the necessity of destroying the Self and the need for passionate love. How do the stories depict the ideal of love? Why might some of the stories be considered scandalous?
5. Do you think that a journey with such inherent dangers is worth it? Explain your answer based on what the survivors gained from the journey.